

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8639

C O N F I D E N T I A L MEXICO 8164

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OCOM, US, MX

SUBJECT: VISIT OF GOVERNOR OF PUERTO RICO

REF: STATE 212960

1. ENTIRE MATTER OF VISIT OF GOVERNOR OF PUERTO RICO SEEMS TO BECOME MORE AND MORE CURIOUS. CHIEF OF PROTOCOL (BERNAL) RAISED MATTER WITH ME AT SOCIAL FUNCTION. HE SAID CATEGORICALLY THAT QUESTION HAD BEEN RAISED WITH PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA (FOREIGN SECRETARY RABASA SAID IT HAD NOT BEEN DISCUSSED WITH PRESIDENT BUT HE ANTICIPATED NEGATIVE REACTION). BERNAL STATED ECHEVERRIA HAD SAID HE WOULD NOT RECEIVE GOVERNOR HERNANDEZ COLON AND HE HOPED VISIT COULD BE DISCOURAGED. BERNAL ADDED THAT PUERTO RICANS HAD TALKED WITH HIM ABOUT ARRANGING APPOINTMENTS HERE BECAUSE THEY FELT (ACCORDING TO BERNAL) THAT US EMBASSY HERE WAS BLOCKING THEM AND WOULD PREVENT THEIR OBTAINING APPOINTMENTS. THIS LAST STATEMENT IS ENTIRELY AT VARIANCE WITH DISCUSSIONS OUR POLITICAL COUNSELOR HAS HAD WITH CABRANES ABOUT THE VISIT WHICH HAVE BEEN ENTIRELY AMICABLE AND INDEED INDICATE THAT PUERTO RICANS ARE COUNTING ON EMBASSY ASSISTANCE. I CAN ONLY CONCLUDE THAT FOR SOME REASON MEXICANS ARE PLAYING GAMES WITH US ABOUT THIS VISIT. FURTHERMORE IT WOULD NOW SEEM THAT FOREIGN SECRETARY

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WILL PROBABLY BE ABSENT DURING VISIT (IN BOGOTA FOR

LATIN AMERICAN FOREIGN MINISTERS' CONFERENCE). AS
DEPARTMENT IS AWARE RABASA IS CURRENTLY IN NEW YORK
FEELING OUT THE UN CLIMATE ON THE ECHEVERRIA CHARTER.

2. I WOULD RECOMMEND THAT HERNANDEZ COLON PLAN TO COME
TO MEXICO AS SCHEDULED FOR HIS APPOINTMENT WITH THE
MEXICAN BAR ASSOCIATION. HE CAN BE ASSURED THAT EMBASSY
WILL DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO ASSIST HIM. I WILL OF
COURSE BE HAPPY TO RECEIVE HIM AND ENTERTAIN HIM IN
APPROPRIATE WAY. I WILL BE IN DEPARTMENT LATER THIS
WEEK AND WILL DISCUSS MATTER WITH CABRANES INCLUDING
MEDIA COVERAGE AND OTHER ASPECTS INCLUDING ENTERTAINMENT.
IN MEANTIME I AGREE ENTIRELY WITH DEPARTMENT THAT WE
SHOULD NOT PURSUE MATTER OF APPOINTMENTS WITH MEXICAN
GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS LEAVING THIS ASPECT OF VISIT TO BE
FOLLOWED BY PUERTO RICANS THEMSELVES OR ABANDONED IF
THEY PREFER IN LIGHT OF ATTITUDES WE HAVE UNEARTHED TO
DATE.
MCBRIDE

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